



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

www.laccod.org



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MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Weller at 1:14 p.m. Introduction of Commissioners, staff and audience members followed.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Chambers, and duly carried (Commissioner Siegel abstaining), the minutes for the meeting of July 18, 2007, were approved with the following correction:

Page 8, under PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Commission will be participating in Disabilities Awareness Day sponsored by Community Rehabilitation Services and the an Independent Living Center. Treasurer Krzyzanowski invited meeting attendees to contribute any disability-related materials that would be helpful for their display. The Commission will also give a workshop on disabled rights at the event.

Additionally, Commission Staff was instructed to report back to the Commission on the status of the amendments to the ordinance authorizing the following name changes for Commission officers: Chair to President and 1st Vice Chair to 1st Vice President; and to seek a second legal opinion from County Counsel on whether or not the Commission can effectuate these name changes prior to the adoption of an ordinance that would formally change the Commission's Officer names.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE BRUNCH FOR THE BILL TAITER
SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION FROM THE COMMISSION'S TRUST FUND
ACCOUNT**

On motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of brunch for the Bill Tainter reception held on August 14, 2007 from the Commission's Trust Fund Account.

**APPROVAL TO REIMBURSE STAFF FROM THE COMMISSION'S
TRUST FUND ACCOUNT FOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT IN MEMORY
OF ERNEST T. HAMILTON, JR.**

On motion, of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, and unanimously carried, the commission approved to reimburse staff from the Commission's Trust Fund Account for a flower arrangement in memory of Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandy Eisenberg, President of Total Recall Realtime Captioning, provided information about Samantha Solorzano, a student from the Glendora Unified School District who was denied Communication Access in Real Time (CART) services although a court order awarded the services. The Glendora Unified School District agreed to provide services for the upcoming school semester only—the District plans to appeal the case in court. Channel 11 Fox News has picked up the Solorzano Story (Fox plans to interview Ms. Solorzano, the minor's mother and her attorney).

Ms. Eisenberg reported that she did not have the time or the date that ABC will "air" the program; however, she will contact Commission Staff to relay this information. Individuals interested in the Solorzano case may also contact Ms. Eisenberg at info@yourcaptioner.com for information.

Ms. Eisenberg inquired on the status of a letter that the Commission offered to write to Supervisor Antonovich, to advise him of the situation described by Ms. Solorzano and to encourage the Board to support any activities to secure assistance for Ms. Solorzano. Additionally, Ms. Eisenberg reported that she received an e-mail from a student attending the California Polytechnic State University of San Luis Obispo who needs real time captioning services. It has been recommended that the school provide real time captioning for this student; however, the school is refusing, claiming in part, that their budget does not permit the school to do so.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Eisenberg, further added that the Commission's "Disability Network" program for the month of July will be posted to Total Recall's website, in both audio and transcript format.

Jesse Padilla, representing the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELRC), distributed a flyer for a Wellness Forum that will take place on August 18, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the ELARC's Board Room, located at 1000 South Fremont, Alhambra, CA. This forum will showcase "A Guide to Healthy Living." teaching individuals to eat well and make healthy changes in life. Attendees will receive healthy snacks, a Guide to Healthy Living, and a DVD made by ELARC's participants. Individuals interested in attending the event may contact Della Corral at (626) 299-4847 no later than Friday, August 17, 2007. RSVP's are required; seating is limited.

Tanya Maxwell, representing the Respect-Ability Coalition, Disability Rights Legal Center, announced that the Health Care Accessibility Survey for people with disabilities conducted by her agency is complete and is being prepared for statewide distribution. Survey results will be available in multiple languages and alternate formats (i.e. Braille, large print, or DVD). She encouraged participation in the survey to assist her organization in obtaining critical healthcare information for people with disabilities. To access the survey information or participate in the survey, individuals can logon to Respect-Ability's web site at www.respectability.org.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Weller distributed a list of the Commission's 2006-07 Standing Committees and a Standing Committee Sign-Up sheet and encouraged Commissioners' participation in a Committee of interest to them. She further offered a suggestion to place a motion on next month's agenda to allow Commissioners to "sign-up" to a Committee of interest to them and approve the Committee Structure for 2007-08.

Therefore, on motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Chair Weller and unanimously carried, the Commission concurred to place on the September 19th Agenda a motion to allow Commissioners to join a Committee of interest to them, and approve the Committee Structure for 2007-08.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- The Trans America Broadcasting Corporation KTYM 1460 AM will continue to host the Commissions' "Disability Network" radio program.
- The Board of Supervisors and the Commission presented the Bill Tainter Scholarship Awards, on August 14, 2007, during the Board meeting.
- Ms. Osuna thanked Mr. Kurt Hagen on behalf of the Executive Office's Strategic Plan Team for giving an enlightening overview on ADA

GUEST SPEAKER, MS. LOUISE CARDENAS, AMERICAN RED CROSS *Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities*

Ms. Cardenas, representing the American Red Cross provided the Commission and the Community at large with a powerpoint presentation titled "Together we Prepare." The presentation's main focus addressed the following issues: *Making a Plan, Building a Kit, Getting Trained, Volunteering, and Donating Blood* in the event of an emergency for the community at large and the community with disabilities. The American Red Cross national website is www.redcross.org.

Following a question and answer forum, Chair Weller, thanked Ms. Cardenas for providing the Commission and Community at large with critical information to assist people with disabilities in the event of an emergency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Affordable Housing for Citizens with Disabilities

Chair Weller reported that the Commission received correspondence from Mike Denneker, Executive Director of the Westside Regional Center, in which he requests to meet with the Commission to address the serious issue of housing availability for citizens with developmental disabilities. Chair Weller reported that although various attempts to contact Mr. Denneker have been made, the Commission has not been able to contact him.

1st Vice Chair Neal discussed the lack of dissemination of information on workshops sponsored by *Communities Actively Living Independent & Free* (CALIF) and the Housing Authority to assist the disability community with housing issues. She added that although a letter to support CALIF was written by the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities, the Commission has not received information about the workshop trainings that are taking place.

Discussion ensued on the lack of dissemination of information on workshops sponsored by CALIF and the Housing Authority to the Commission and the Community at large.

After discussion, on motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, the Commission agreed to write a letter to Mr. John King, from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, addressing the issue on the lack of dissemination of information on workshops by CALIF; and to request that the Housing Authority network with other regional centers, independent living centers and the Commission's Housing Committee to ensure that the community at large is receiving vital information on housing issues.

B. Public Relations Committee

2007 Access Awards Luncheon

In the absence of Commissioner, Kryzanowski, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, 1st Vice Chair Neal reported the following:

1st Vice Chair Neal reported that for entertainment, the Committee has been chosen the *Outta Sight Trio* and *The Bell Choir*. The Committee plans to have a memorial tribute for Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr., Mr. Stephen Jensen, Department of Rehabilitation, and Ms. Dedie Ward, Commission Staff, followed by music; and a special acknowledgement presentation to Ms. Glenda Wina, Office of Protocol, for hosting the Access Awards Luncheons for the past few years. Mr. Chris Gabler will design the front cover of this year's souvenir program.

Therefore, on motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the following for the 2007 Access Awards Luncheon:

- Entertainment-*Outta Sight Trio* and *The Belle Choir*, and the purchase of a sandwich tray for the members of *The Bell Choir*;
- A memorial tribute for Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr., Mr. Stephen Jensen, Department of Rehabilitation, and Ms. Demetria "Dedie" Ward;
- An invitation and special acknowledgment for Ms. Glenda Wina, Office of Protocol, for hosting the Access Awards Luncheon for the past few years; and
- Mr. Chris Gabler to design this year's cover of the souvenir program.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Troost, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the 2007 Access Awards Recipients as follows:

Billy Barty Award

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

1st District

Washington Mutual

Bill Tainter Award

Kristina Ripatti, Police Officer
Los Angeles Police Department

2nd District

Junior Blind of America

Pearl Ella Johnson Award

Lawrence Pleskow
When U Dream a Dream, Inc.

3rd District

Terri Lantz, Advocacy Coordinator
United Cerebral Palsy

Chairperson's Award

Captain Gregory C. Malais
Los Angeles City Fire Department

4th District

Ben Rockwell
Vice President Californians for
Disability Rights, Inc.
Chair, Metro Accessibility
Advisory Committee

Jane Small Advocacy Award

Protection & Advocacy, Inc.

5th District

Steve Miller, Executive Director
Tierra Del Sol Foundation

Bill Tainter Scholarship Grants

1st Vice Chair Neal reported that on August 14, 2007, during a Board meeting, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Commission on Disabilities presented \$2,000 scholarship awards to Lizeth Gabriola (1st District), Edwin Velasquez (2nd District), Paul Herzlich (3rd District), Adam Ohnstad (4th District), and Phillip Morrow (5th District). 1st Vice Chair added that at a reception hosted by the Commission the students received the 1st installment of the scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and that the students would receive the 2nd installment of the scholarship upon their submission of their grade transcripts for their first semester of school. She added that two of the students shared their interest in participating in the Commission's youth seat.

Therefore, on motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the following Bill Tainter Scholarship recipients: Lizeth Gabriola (1st District), Edwin Velasquez (2nd District), Paul Herzlich (3rd District), Adam Ohnstad (4th District), and Phillip Morrow (5th District), and authorized the scholarship monies to be disbursed from the Commission's Trust Fund Account.

Commissioner Siegel offered a suggestion that the 2nd installment of the scholarship be presented to the students at the 2007 Access Awards Luncheon as the Commission had done in past luncheons. Commissioner Siegel further suggested that an additional five students be selected to receive the Bill Tainter Scholarship. Commissioner Pomerantz made a suggestion that the Scholarship Committee study the feasibility of selecting an additional five students to receive a scholarship this year provided the funding is available, and to place the item for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners, Siegel, Teran, Weller, Neal, and Troost; Noes: Commissioners, Wright, Chambers, Pomerantz, Rubenstein, and Chang, said motion failed due to a tie in votes.

After further discussion 1st Vice Chair Neal offered a new motion that the Scholarship Committee select the additional five students and report back to the full Commission for approval. Commissioner Chambers offered an amendment to 1st Vice Chair Neal's motion to request a Committee report and that it include: the amount of resources, the amount of money available, and the number of applicants; and the Committee's recommendation and reasoning for going forward or declining the selection of an additional five students.

Therefore, on motion of 1st Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Chambers, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved a study by the Events Committee and a report back to the full Commission that includes the amount of resources, funds, and applicants available; and the Committee's recommendation on the feasibility of selection an additional five students to receive scholarships, for approval.

Further, the Commission concurred that in the event the Scholarship Committee recommends the selection of an additional five students, these students as well as the original five Scholarship awardees are to be invited to attend the 2007 Access Awards Luncheon.

1st Vice Chair Neal added that she met with Larry Carroll, News Anchor, who is currently with a CBS radio station, and Mr. Gordon Anthony with the department of Office of Affirmative Action Compliance to discuss the feasibility of a radio program, similar to the Commission's "Disability Network." 1st Vice Chair Neal reported that Mr. Carroll saw the Commission's *Request for Proposal* and was very interested in a radio show that dealt with disability related issues. 1st Vice Chair Neal will keep the Commission apprised of any developments.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report- Teddie Joy Remhild
None.

DISCUSSION ON SHORTAGE OF STAFF TRAINED TO ASSIST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN LOS ANGELES AIRPORT LAX- COMMISSIONER ALEXIA TERAN

Commissioner Teran noted that she read an article in the Los Angeles Times that dealt with the issue of storage of staff trained to assist people with disabilities in Los Angeles Airport (LAX).

Mr. Mitch Pomerantz, ADA Compliance Officer with the Los Angeles City Department on Disability added the following:

- A lawsuit was filed by the employees of *Airport Services*. Prior to this lawsuit, he worked closely with the ADA. Coordinator for the airport, Mr. Larry Rolon; and he has been invited by Mr. Rolon to address the feasibility of a training curriculum for staff that assists people with disabilities. The City only has ADA jurisdiction from the airport parking lot to the ticket counter. Once an individual leaves the ticket counter, ADA no longer applies, a piece of legislation called the "Air Carrier Access Act" applies and that is the jurisdiction under which the airlines employ staff.

- *Airport Services* provides wheelchair services only at the Tom Bradley National Terminal; there are other providers who are hired by the independent airlines to provide this service at the other seven terminals of LAX. Staff employed to provide these services are not City employees. Positions allotted by *Airport Services* to provide ADA services are essentially entry level positions and low-paying jobs.
- Requests for wheel chair accommodations have increased drastically, and these reasonable accommodations have certainly become a tremendous problem for LAX. Two to three complaints a year are received from passengers who have requested a reasonable accommodation at one of the other terminals at LAX, and have not received adequate services.

After a question and answer forum Chair Weller thanked Mr. Pomerantz for the information that he brought to the Commission. Mr. Pomerantz further noted that if the Commission deemed it appropriate, he would come back before the Commission and invite Mr. Rolon to answer questions for the Commission.

REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

None.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

1st Vice Chair Neal commented on an incident she had with a Security Officer at a Social Security Office. She requested that the Commission at a future meeting invite to a Commission meeting the entity responsible for hiring security at government agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Vice Chair Neal announced the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability's Eight Annual Accessibility Expo to take place on October 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles Convention Center. She encourages everyone's participation at this event. Individuals with a flyer to the event receive free parking.

Mr. Ray McKeever announced a Deaf Festival on Saturday, September 15, 2007 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Woodley Park in Encino, California. Mr. McKeever added that informational booths are free if the material to be presented is educational material. Vendor Booths are \$50. He encouraged everyone's participation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Pomerantz, seconded by 1st Vice Chair Neal, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m. in memory of Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Kecia B. Weller, Chair
Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice Chair
Mary Chambers
Wan Chung-Chang
Donna Pomerantz
Harley D. Rubenstein
Bernard Siegel
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

Michael Gureckas
Richard Krzyzanowski, Treasurer

Unexcused Absence

Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors

Sandra Barbee, Division Chief
Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff

County of Los Angeles

Kurt C. Hagen, OAAC, Disability Civil Rights Compliance
Cyndi Ryan, Office of Education

Guests

Louisa Cardenas, American Red Cross
Tanya Maxwell, Disability Rights Legal Center
Madga Carrero, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Jesse Padilla, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Laura B. Ripplinger, LifeSigns, Inc.
Ray Louis McKeever, Southern California Assn. of the Blind

Guests (Cont.)

Joanne Jaimes, Total Recall Captioning
Sandy Eisenberg, Total Recall Captioning
Rob Garski, City of Pasadena
Carl Swirkal
Carolyn McDow

MTA

Chip Hazen

ASI

Luis Pacheco